

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is an outrage, undermining our democracy and what is left of our right to a free press.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get an increasingly limited spectrum of views. More emphasis on profit and little emphasis on advancing our democracy. I have a young daughter who has not watched any television in her first two years of life. I am not concerned about curses on the airwaves or Janet Jackson's breast being shown on television. I am concerned about the distortions of our lived reality that are perpetuated by a media dominated by narrow and elite private interests.

Sinclair's attempt to manipulate the outcome of a Presidential election is shameful. Media ownership must entail responsibility not only to puritanical notions of decency but to democratic rights and values. We need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.